

REMARK**Regarding the Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 Second Paragraph:**

The ground rejections of claims 39 to 47 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph and second paragraph are obviated by the above Claim Amendment. The image/figure claimed in claims has removed and revised as shown in the claim amendment.

Regarding the Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b):

The ground rejection of claims 39 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Jobin et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,794,897) are respectively traversed.

Examiner indicated that cited reference, Jobin et al. disclose all limitations of the instant invention. This rejection is not a correct action, at all. Because, the examiner merely copy down all limitation of the instant invention and simply rejected the claimed subject matters.

However, a careful study of the cited reference, it is revealed that John et al. do not discloses as follows:

(a) The outer surface of the base sleeve (2, 2b) does not have a flat bottom surface, and the patterns of the multiple of semi-annular ribs (22) and longitudinal ribs (21). Instead of the flat bottom surface, John et al. discloses a skeleton bottom surface.

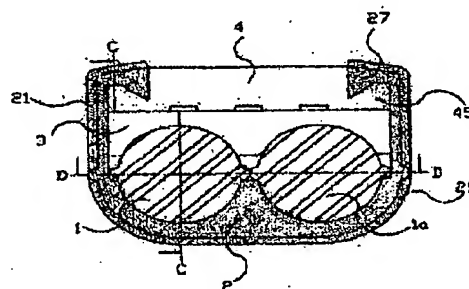
(b) The dual half-cylindrical cavities does not closely arranged to directly contact the first and second reinforcing bars (or cables) for tightly binding. Instead of the closely arranged dual half-cylindrical cavities, John et al. discloses a flat surface (29) between the dual half-cylindrical cavities for installing a bolt 65 and nut 67.

On the contrary, the dual half-cylindrical cavities of the present claims has closely

arranged to directly contact the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) for tightly binding each other and clearly distinguish from the cited reference.

Apparently, John et al. fail to teach a wedge (4, 4b), which is formed gradually decreasing thickness along with the axial direction.

Furthermore, the examiner purposely ignores all details of the claimed subject matters of the instant invention, which is considered a wrongful attitude of the examination.



Regarding the Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a):

The ground rejection of claims 40 to 44 and 46 to 47 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable *Jobin et al.* (U. S. Patent No. 5,794,897) with a matter of design choice is also traversed respectively.

In the office action (O/A: Paragraph 15), the examiner indicated that the particular shape of "the locking part (27)" is a matter of design choice. This is the examiner's prejudicial opinions, because the particular shape of "the locking part (27)" is required to mate to the locking sections (45), which are formed along with both edges (46), for firmly coupling the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a), as axially slide advanced into the base sleeve (2, 2b) (See the above figure).

Regarding the length of base sleeve, the examiner's rejection (O/A: Paragraph 16) is not proper, because the minimum length of base sleeve is also required to firmly binding the

first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a).

As discussed so far, the overall features of the present invention are quite different from that of the cited references, Jobin et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,794,897).

Therefore, the cited reference, Jobin, alone or with a matter of design choice does not teach or obtain the features of the present invention. Even the combination of design choice can not be reached or obtained the present invention.

Furthermore, there are no sensible motivation or matter of design choice, because the cited references Jobin et al. have different configurations and functions.

Consequently, the rejections that are made on the basis of wrong references must be immediately withdrawn.

Since the examiner has filtered (rejected) this instant application enough times up to today, it is safe to allow this present invention, right now.

Therefore, the applicant believes the present application is now in allowance condition and early Notice of Allowance is respectively solicited.

Respectfully submitted



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